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Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

Definition and delimitation of outer space: views of States members and permanent observers of the Committee

Note by the Secretariat

Addendum

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II. Replies received from States members of the Committee

Mexico

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Mexico believes that the boundary between outer space and airspace must continue to be discussed and, in that respect, bases its position on its fundamental legislative principle that the nation has direct ownership of the space located above the national territory, to the extent and within the terms established by international law.

Outer space should be delimited for many and diverse reasons:

Liability

If a space object caused an accident in the airspace through which civil aircraft pass and damage was caused to an aircraft and its passengers, would the following conventions apply: Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects, Convention for the Unification of Certain Rules Relating to International Carriage by Air or Convention for the Unification of Certain Rules for International Carriage by Air?

In the case of suborbital flights that pass through both airspace and outer space, if the space object breaks down in airspace, would the Liability Convention or the Convention for the Unification of Certain Rules Relating to International Carriage by Air apply?

Security

This is relevant to both aircraft and space objects. To date, both fly through so-called "airspace", which, in accordance with the Convention on International Civil Aviation, extends to 19 miles above the surface of the Earth. Military aircraft and space objects in general, including satellites, fly beyond that limit.